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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government do not consider the reports of these local bodies annually ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Of course the reports of local bodies are issued annually."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know from the hon. Minister whether Government should not draw the attention of these local bodies to the matter ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" That is a matter for the local bodies concerned."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" My question is whether Government have at any time drawn the attention of these local bodies ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Government do not think it necessary to draw the attention of local bodies."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know from what Muslim authority Government gathered their information on which they have passed that conveyance could be provided only to girls above the fifth standard ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" For the simple reason that girls under that age do not observe strict purdah."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know under what authority the hon. Minister says that girls studying in classes below the fifth standard do not observe purdah, whatever their age ? "

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" From experience gained in the department I am assured that girls up to the fifth standard are of an age when they do not observe purdah."

Prevention of smoking in schools and colleges.

* 1536 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : With reference to the answer to my question No. 628 answered on 26th November 1928, will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Director of Public Instruction has since received the complete reports regarding the effect of his circular of 1925 in preventing smoking in schools and colleges ; and

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table of the House all the information received on this subject ?

A.—(*a*) The Director has received reports from District Educational Officers and Principals of Colleges.

(*b*) It is seen from the reports that the Director's circular of 1925 has been instrumental in checking to a large extent the habit of smoking in school and college premises and on play-grounds, but that in certain districts better results can be hoped for only through parental co-operation. It is not considered necessary to place the reports on the table of the House.

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Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know in which districts the Director's circular has been instrumental in checking smoking among boys in schools and colleges ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Notice."

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether the attention of students is now being drawn to this circular in schools and colleges ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I believe that is a fact."

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether Government propose to take any further steps to discourage smoking among boys in colleges and schools ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Till we get further information we do not propose to take any steps."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I enquire whether Government are aware that smoking is allowed outside the school premises, say play-grounds, and outside their homes ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I am not aware of any such practice."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" If there is such a practice what steps Government propose to take to check the habit of smoking ? "

The hon. the President :—" That is a hypothetical question."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" There is smoking going on outside the school ? "

The hon. the President :—" The hon. Member will have to take the opportunity during budget debates."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" May I know whether teachers are instructed not to smoke in the presence of the boys ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" I do not think that liberties of individuals can be restricted."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know the reasons why it is not considered necessary to place the reports on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Because it is impossible to arrange and print those voluminous reports. If a summary of the reports is wanted by the hon. Member I am quite prepared to give it."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know if teachers are smoking in the presence of their pupils ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" No, Sir."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister for Education whether he is prepared to issue a circular directing that teachers should not smoke at least in the class-room ? "

The hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Certainly, such an instruction I am prepared to issue if the teachers are doing that, as I think it is very wrong."

Co-education of boys and girls in elementary schools.

* 1537 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to encourage co-education of boys and girls in elementary schools ; and

(*b*) if so, what action they intend to take in this matter ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.